

BOROUGH OF STAMFORD.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1925.

BARN HILL, STAMFORD,

28th May, 1926.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Gentlemen,

As it is five years since I made a survey report, it is my duty to do so again this year.

As you all know, Stamford is partly in Northamptonshire and partly in Lincolnshire, but for all practical purposes, such as Parliamentary and County Council Elections, it is all counted as part of Lincolnshire.

The area of the Borough is 1918 acres, and there were 2443 occupied houses in 1921, with a population at the last census of just under 10,000, which works out at 4.09 per house.

The estimated population to last July was exactly 10,000. The chief occupation of the people is engineering, and I estimate that fully one-half of the adult male population is concerned in these works; probably, after engineering, brewing is the most important occupation.

The town is served by two railways—the London and North-Eastern and the London, Midland & Scottish—but, as it is on the main line of neither, the train service leaves much to be desired, the last train leaving King's Cross at 5.45 p.m.

The amount expended in Poor Law out-door relief during the past five years is still on the low side, and averages £231 6s. 5d. per year.

The Stamford, Rutland and General Infirmary, with its blocks for infectious diseases, is of very great value to the town and a wide neighbourhood. The Governors have begun building a children's and maternity block, which will be of great benefit.

The rateable value of the Borough is £42,058, and a penny rate produces £154 9s. 3d.

Vital Statistics. 161 infants were born, 93 boys and 68 girls; of these 5 boys were illegitimate and 2 girls. 100 people died, 45 being males and 55 females; 5 infants under the age of one year died; they were all legitimate. There were 9 deaths from cancer, 5 from tuberculosis of the lungs, 6 from heart disease, 6 from pneumonia and 13 from bronchitis, 5 from influenza and one from measles.

HEALTH SERVICES IN THE BOROUGH.

(1). *The Stamford, Rutland & General Infirmary*, with which your Council has a contract for the treatment of cases of scarlet fever, diphtheria and enteric fever.

(2). *The Stamford and District Small-Pox Hospital*, at Shacklewell Hollow, where there is accommodation for 24 patients and necessary staff (the accommodation can easily be extended if necessary).

(3). *Surgical tuberculosis* is treated at the Stamford, Rutland & General Infirmary by arrangement with the County Council.

(4). *Children.* A new ward is being built at the Stamford, Rutland & General Infirmary.

(5). *Maternity.* A new ward is being built at the Stamford, Rutland & General Infirmary.



The Children's Homes. A branch of the Poor Law Institute is available for homeless children, but there is no provision for unmarried mothers or illegitimate children, as such.

Ambulances. (a). The Stamford, Rutland & General Infirmary convey infective patients to hospital at your expense.

(b). The St. John Ambulance Brigade has this year provided an ambulance for non-infective diseases, at a small charge, and for accidents gratuitously.

Clinics. There is an Infant Welfare Clinic managed by an enthusiastic lay Committee.

The School Clinic is under the supervision of the County M.O.H.

There are no Day Nurseries, Tuberculosis or Venereal Dispensaries.

Public Health Officers:—

- | | | | |
|-----|-----------|-----|---------------------|
| (a) | part time | ... | M.O.H. |
| (b) | „ | ... | Sanitary Inspector. |
| (c) | „ | ... | Meat Inspector. |

Nursing in the Home. The Stamford Nursing Association, financed partly by members' contributions and partly by the charitable people, employ two nurses—one for general nursing and one for midwifery; there is no provision for nursing any infectious disease in the home.

Midwives. There are two registered as practising in the town.

Chemical Work. Your Council employ the Clinical Research Association in London to carry out examination of swabs, &c., and Messrs. Thresh & Beal for analysing water and milk. The routine milk examination is in the hands of the police, who are employed by the County Council.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

(1). *Water.* The supply is owned by the Marquess of Exeter, and has been uniformly satisfactory both in quantity and quality. Your Council has it analysed 4 times a year and the owner does likewise, and I see both lots of analyses.

(2). *River.* The Welland runs through the Town, and is not seriously polluted.

(3). *Drainage and Sewerage.* Practically all the houses are connected with the sewers.

The Sewage Works are constantly being brought up-to-date, and a very good effluent is obtained.

(4). *Scavenging.* House refuse is collected and carted to a tip near to the Uffington Road. As I have pointed out many times, this is not an ideal arrangement.

(5). *House-to-House Inspection.* 33 houses were inspected during the year, and the following is a summary of the various nuisances detected:—

<i>Houses affected.</i>		<i>Nuisance.</i>
6	...	Bad repair generally.
1	...	Handrail required.
5	...	Yard paving defective.
2	...	Defective W.C. Cistern.
8	...	W.C. in bad state of repair.
3	...	Defective plaster.
2	...	Dampness.
10	...	Defective roofs.
5	...	„ window frames.
1	...	„ chimney.
4	...	„ eaves gutters.
3	...	„ staircase.
2	...	„ floor.

The following nuisances were detected other than by house-to-house inspection, and have been remedied:—

*Houses affected.**Nuisance.*

3	...	Defective roof.
1	...	„ chimney.
3	...	„ W.C.'s.
1	...	„ Fireplace.
1	...	„ plaster.
3	...	Blocked drains.
1	...	Dirty ceiling to Bakehouse.
1	...	Defective W.C. Cistern.
2	...	„ eaves gutters.
4	...	Dirty condition of Slaughter-House.
2	...	Dangerous chimneys and roofs.
1	...	Defective drains.
8	...	Nuisances from rats.

(6). *Schools.* Are nearly all overcrowded, but they are under the jurisdiction of the County Council.

HOUSING.

Although a good many new houses have been built since the War, there have been practically none closed, and I hope that some steps will soon be taken to close and demolish the large number of unhealthy dwelling-houses in the town.

Overcrowding is not now so prevalent, though, until more cheap houses are built, I do not see how it is to be further reduced.

Fitness of Houses. Except for about 90 houses in the town, the remainder are in a good state of structural repair and suitable for dwelling-houses.

Housing Statistics. The total number of new houses which have been built is 10, all of which have been built by private enterprise.

Unfit Dwelling-houses.

1.	Total number of inspections under Public Health and Housing Acts	...	56.
2.	Number of unfit houses	...	2.
3.	Number of poor houses but fit for dwelling-houses for old people	...	Nil.

Remedy of defects without service of formal notice. 23 houses were rendered fit.

Closing Orders. 12 orders were made.

INSPECTION OF FOOD.

Milk Shops and Dairies are inspected regularly and found fairly satisfactory.

Slaughter-houses are inspected regularly, and some improvement noticed from last year.

A Meat Inspector has been appointed. In his report for the six months ending October 31st, 1925, he stated that the working of the regulations had been satisfactory and that very little disease had been found in the meat supplied for consumption to the general public.

The total number of animals slaughtered from the 1st May to the 31st October was 3111. Of this number only five whole carcasses were condemned as unfit for human food, and fourteen parts of carcasses were seized and destroyed.

The Meat Inspector sees practically all animals slaughtered.

There are 14 licensed slaughter-houses in the Borough; these have all been in existence since 1920.


Bake-Houses are inspected regularly and found satisfactory.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There has been remarkably little infectious disease in the Town during the past five years, with the exception of measles, whooping cough and chicken-pox.

All cases of diphtheria, scarlet fever and enteric fever may be removed to hospital, but there is no hospital provided for measles or whooping cough.

Small-Pox. There has been one case notified during last year. The case was removed to the Isolation Hospital and all contacts were traced and vaccinated, and, without wanting to boast, I consider it was entirely due to the prompt measures taken that we were spared several cases and much greater



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expense than was actually incurred.

The Public Vaccinator was kept very busy for some weeks, and I should estimate there are more people in Stamford protected against small-pox than for a very long time, though there are still some who have not taken this precaution.

The following infectious diseases were notified during the year :—

<i>Diseases.</i>	<i>Total cases notified.</i>		<i>Admitted to Hospital.</i>
Small-pox	...	1	...
Scarlet Fever	...	4	...
Diphtheria	...	1	...
Pneumonia	...	7 (6 deaths)	1
Chicken-pox	...	12	

Tuberculosis. Eight new cases were notified, making the total number on the register 70.

Six persons died of tuberculosis, 5 of pulmonary, and 1 of meningitis.

The supervision of tuberculosis is in the hands of the County Council.

There have been no cases of puerperal fever or opthalmia notified during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

E. A. HUTTON-ATTENBOROUGH, M.B., B.S.,

M.O.H., Borough of Stamford.

